IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claims 91, 97, 98, 100-107, 109 and 110 as follow:

Claims 1-90. Canceled

91. (Currently Amended) Zeolite N having a composition according to the formula $(M_{1-a}, P_a)_{12}(Al_bSi_c)_{10}O_{40}(X_{1-d}, Y_d)_2$ nH_2O where

M = alkali metal or ammonium;

P = alkali metal, ammonium or metal cations exchanged in lieu of alkali metal or ammonium

X = halide and Y is an anion and

$0 \leq a \leq 1$, $1 \leq c/b \leq \infty$ ~~µ~~, $0 \leq d \leq 1$ and $1 \leq n \leq 10$

with the proviso that when a = 0, b = 1, c = 1, d = 0[[,]] and X = Cl, then $M \neq K$ (potassium).

92. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91, having a BET surface area greater than $1 m^2/g$.

93. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 92 having a BET surface area between 1 m^2/g and 150 m^2/g.

94. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N having a structure as claimed in claim 92 having a proportion of external surface area to internal surface area of greater than 1%.

95. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 94 having a proportion of external surface area to internal surface area of greater than 5%.

96. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 having an X-ray diffraction pattern which has a high background intensity of greater than 5% of a maximum peak height between the region $25° < 2\theta < 70°$.

97. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging ammonium ions in solution including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with a solution ~~when used for exchange~~ of ammonium ions ~~in solution~~.

98. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97 wherein the exchange of ammonium ions in solution is carried out ~~Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 when used for exchange of ammonium ions~~ in the presence of alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal ions ~~in solution~~.

99. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 having a cation exchange capacity ranging from 100 meq per 100g to 700 meq per 100g for ammonium ions with concentrations between less than 1 mg/L to greater than 10, 000 mg/L.

100. (Currently Amended) A method of exchanging metal ions in solution including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with a solution ~~when used for exchange~~ of metal ions ~~in solution~~.

101. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 100 wherein the exchange of metal ions in solution is carried out ~~Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 when used for exchange of metal ions~~ in the presence of alkali metal or alkaline earth metal ions ~~in solution~~.

102. (Currently Amended) A method of adsorbing ammonia gas including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with ~~when used for adsorbing~~ ammonia gas in the temperature range 0°C to 300°C.

103. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102 wherein the adsorption of ammonia gas is carried out ~~Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 when used for adsorbing ammonia gas in the temperature range 0°C to 300°C~~ in the presence of water.

104. (Currently Amended) A method of absorbing oil including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with the ~~when used for absorbing~~ oil.

105. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 104 wherein the zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N absorbs ~~as claimed in claim 104 when used for absorbing oil~~ greater than 50g of oil per 100g of zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N.

106. (Currently Amended) A method of removing anions from wastewater including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with ~~when used for removing~~ anions within ~~from~~ wastewater.

107. (Currently Amended) A method of re-exchanging alkali metal ions from a solution containing hydroxyl ions including the step of contacting an ammonium form of a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with ~~when used in an ammonium form to have a capacity to re-exchange~~ alkali metal ions within a solution ~~from solutions~~ containing hydroxyl ions ranging in concentration from 0.1 M to 2.0 M.

108. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 having a removal rate of ammonium ion ranging between 50-100% from ammonium loaded Zeolite N using a regeneration solution containing hydroxyl ions.

109. (Currently Amended) A method of re-exchanging ammonium ions and/or of retaining a high selectivity for ammonium ions in a zeolite N including the step of contacting a ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with the ~~when used to re-exchange ammonium ions and/or to retain high selectivity for~~ ammonium ions after regeneration of the zeolite N with a solution containing hydroxyl ions.

110. (Currently Amended) A method of killing gram positive or gram negative bacteria including the step of contacting a zeolite ~~Zeolite~~ N as claimed in claim 91 with the ~~when used to kill~~ gram positive or gram negative bacteria.

111.(Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 where c/b is greater than 1.

112. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 111 where c/b has an upper value of 3.

113. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 111 where c/b has an upper value of 5.

114. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 91 where Y is hydroxyl or halide.

115. (Previously Presented) Zeolite N as claimed in claim 114 where Y is chloride.